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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

4 v.

22 Cr. 142 (VSB)

5 ZUKEILA PLAZA, a/k/a "Keila,"  
MAURICE SINCLAIR, a/k/a  
6 "Skino" a/k/a "Ski," LAWRENCE  
GREEN, a/k/a "Lzz," a/k/a  
7 "LJ," LOUISE LAWRENCE a/k/a  
"Adam," a/k/a "Anthony," a/k/a  
8 "A," DEION JOHNSON a/k/a  
"Billz," a/k/a "Black," NATHAN  
9 SMITH, a/k/a "Youngin," a/k/a  
"600," a/k/a "Six," ESTIBEN  
10 OLIVA a/k/a "Mula," JOHN  
GRAVES, a/k/a "Nephew," ALI  
11 DOBY a/k/a "Lee Drilly," a/k/a  
"Fifty," GODDES EARL, a/k/a  
12 "Asia," JAVON HOSKINS a/k/a  
"Jason," a/k/a "Twin," and  
13 JOHN HENDRICKS a/k/a "Tyson,"  
a/k/a "Fred,"

Conference

15 Defendants.

16 -----x

17 New York, N.Y.  
18 April 4, 2023  
11:15 a.m.

19 Before:

20 HON. VERNON S. BRODERICK,

21 District Judge

22 APPEARANCES

23 DAMIAN WILLIAMS

24 United States Attorney for the  
Southern District of New York

25 THOMAS JOHN WRIGHT

Assistant United States Attorney

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DAVID JASON COHEN

Attorney for Defendant Goddes Earl

LISA SCOLARI

Attorney for Defendant Javon Hoskins

WALESKA SUERO GARCIA

Attorney for Defendant Zukeila Plaza

RICHARD PALMA

Attorney for Defendant Maurice Sinclair

DAVID KEITH BERTAN

Attorney for Defendant Lawrence Green

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APPEARANCES (Continued)

CARLOS MANUEL SANTIAGO, JR.

Attorney for Defendant Louis Lawrence

BRENDAN QUIGLEY

Attorney for Defendant John Graves

RAY GAZER

Attorney for Defendant Deion Johnson

RICHARD ROSENBERG

Attorney for Defendant Estiben Oliva

PHILLIP HAMILTON

Attorney for Defendant Ali Doby

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(Case called)

THE COURT: OK. If I could ask counsel to please identify themselves for the record, beginning with the government.

MR. WRIGHT: Good morning, your Honor. For the government, Assistant United States Attorney Thomas John Wright.

THE COURT: OK. Good morning.

MR. BERTAN: Good morning, your Honor. David Bertan appearing for Mr. Green. He is seated in the second row, wearing a blue shirt.

THE COURT: OK. Thank you.

MR. COHEN: David Cohen for Ms. Goddes Earl, who is sitting in the back row, to your Honor's left. I'm also appearing for Jeffrey Chabrowe for Nathan Smith, who is in the first row in the yellow jumper.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. ROSENBERG: Good morning, your Honor. Richard Rosenberg appearing for Estiben Oliva. He is sitting in the second row of the jury box. The second person -- raise your hand, please.

THE COURT: OK. Yes.

MS. SCOLARI: Good morning, your Honor. Lisa Scolari for Javon Hoskins, who is closest to the Court in the front row of the jury box.

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1 THE COURT: OK. Thank you.

2 MR. PALMA: Good morning, your Honor. Richard Palma  
3 for Maurice Sinclair. Mr. Sinclair is seated in the audience.

4 THE COURT: OK. Thank you, Mr. Sinclair.

5 MS. GARCIA: Good morning, your Honor. Waleska Suero  
6 Garcia with Boies Schiller on behalf of Ms. Plaza, who is in  
7 the gallery.

8 THE COURT: OK. Right. Thank you.

9 MR. HAMILTON: Your Honor, good morning. For Mr. Ali  
10 Doby, who is seated in the back row, closest to the door,  
11 Phillip Hamilton.

12 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

13 MR. SANTIAGO: Good morning, your Honor. Good morning  
14 everyone else. Carlos Santiago, on behalf of my client, Louis  
15 Lawrence, who is seated in the jury box in orange in the front  
16 row.

17 THE COURT: OK. Thank you.

18 MR. GAZER: Good morning, your Honor. Ray Gazer on  
19 behalf of Deion Johnson, who is sitting front row center.

20 THE COURT: OK.

21 MR. QUIGLEY: Good morning, your Honor. Brendan  
22 Quigley for John Graves, who is seated to my right.

23 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. OK. Thank you,  
24 counsel.

25 This matter is on today for a scheduling conference.

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1 I understand that the parties have discussed coming back on  
2 July 6th at noon. Does that date -- is that correct?

3 MR. WRIGHT: That's my understanding, your Honor,  
4 after speaking with counsel.

5 THE COURT: Sorry.

6 MR. WRIGHT: I understand it's a date that's  
7 convenient for all counsel who are present today, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Does any defense counsel object to that  
9 date?

10 MR. COHEN: David Cohen, but on behalf of  
11 Mr. Chabrowe, that was a bad date. We discussed it all amongst  
12 ourselves. So for the rest of us it happens to be a good date,  
13 and the only date we could agree upon. So for that reason, we  
14 decided to do July 6th.

15 THE COURT: All right. Well, hopefully Mr. Chabrowe's  
16 schedule will work itself out. I don't know what the matter is  
17 that would present a conflict.

18 Let me ask, last we were here, I discussed with the  
19 parties whether or not there would be motions. Have the  
20 parties had an opportunity to discuss any pretrial motion that  
21 might be made?

22 MS. SCOLARI: Your Honor, Lisa Scolari, for  
23 Mr. Hoskins.

24 We just all, I believe, got offers. I got mine  
25 yesterday.

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1 THE COURT: OK.

2 MS. SCOLARI: So there's new offers here for the  
3 defendants to contemplate, so we need time with those. I don't  
4 think we're really ready to look at motions yet for that  
5 reason.

6 THE COURT: All right. Well, I guess what I would say  
7 is between now and July 6th, I expect you to do both things.  
8 Obviously, Ms. Scolari, I took what you said meaning certain of  
9 the defense counsel have written offers from the government?

10 MS. SCOLARI: That is correct.

11 THE COURT: So this is what I suggest. I'll put this  
12 matter over until July 6th at noon. During the interim,  
13 counsel for the defendants should both, obviously, communicate  
14 with your clients and talk about the offers, obviously, but  
15 also talk about motions. I think between now and July 6th is  
16 enough time to work through the issue of pleas. If it turns  
17 out that pleas aren't in the offing, I would like to get a  
18 motion schedule from the parties. Either be prepared to give  
19 me the schedule on July 6th or send a short letter in advance  
20 of the conference setting forth any motions that might be made,  
21 and if there are no motions, then we can discuss trial dates at  
22 that time.

23 So I'm going to exclude the time between now and  
24 July 6th from the time within which the defendants would have  
25 to be brought to trial. Now, I find that that exclusion is

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1 necessary to allow counsel to review the plea offers with their  
2 clients, to review the discovery, and determine whether or not  
3 there are any motions that should be made if the plea  
4 discussion don't bear fruit, in other words, don't work out,  
5 and I find that that exclusion outweighs the interest of the  
6 public and the defendants in a speedy trial.

7 Let me ask, obviously, I was speaking with Ms.  
8 Scolari, and I assume that she was speaking in general for the  
9 group, but I want to make sure if there's any other issues that  
10 any counsel have with regard to how we're proceeding?

11 OK. All right. So I would say, at the suggestion of  
12 my staff, the next conference, and just be on the lookout,  
13 we'll do it in a larger courtroom so that there's more space.

14 Now, let me ask, Ms. Earl, I know there was  
15 communications between Mr. Cohen and my chambers and between  
16 yourself and Mr. Cohen. Are you satisfied, at this stage, with  
17 Mr. Cohen's representation?

18 DEFENDANT EARL: Yes. Everything's gotten better. We  
19 smoothed everything over.

20 THE COURT: OK. All right. Thank you. I just wanted  
21 to confirm that.

22 All right. Is there anything else that we need to  
23 deal with or discuss today from the government?

24 MR. WRIGHT: Not from the government. Thank you, your  
25 Honor.



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1 THE COURT: From the defense?

2 OK. Thank you very much. And I thank everybody for  
3 getting here promptly. I know today is a challenging day for  
4 commuting to and from this area of the city. Thank you very  
5 much. We'll stand adjourned.

6 (Adjourned)

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